

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
- 2.. (Withdrawn) The cannula/needle combination as set forth in claim 10, wherein said needle has a cross-section other than circular.
3. (Withdrawn) The cannula/needle combination as set forth in, claim 10, wherein said needle is provided with at least one longitudinally extending groove, indentation or notch.
4. (Withdrawn) The cannula/needle combination as set forth claim 10, wherein said needle is provided with at least a longitudinally extending flat.
5. (Withdrawn) The cannula/needle combination as set forth in claim 10, wherein said cannula comprises a cross-section other than circular.
6. (Withdrawn) The cannula/needle combination as set forth in claim 10, wherein an inner cross-section of said cannula (1) is oval.
7. (Withdrawn) The cannula/needle combination as set forth in claim 10, wherein an inner cross-section of said cannula is provided with at least one longitudinal groove, indentation or notch extending to an end of said cannula.
8. (Withdrawn) The cannula/needle combination as set forth in claim 10, wherein an inner cross-section of said cannula is provided with at least one longitudinally extending flat.
9. (Withdrawn) The cannula/needle combination as set forth in claim 10, wherein said needle of said combination is configured as a non-hollow needle.

10. (Currently amended) A cannula/needle combination for a catheter head for administering a fluid substance, comprising:

a needle comprising a substantially sharpened piercing end; and

a cannula surrounding the needle in a snug fit between an inner wall of the cannula and an outer wall of the needle; wherein

a clearance is configured between the inner wall of the cannula and the outer wall of the needle, the fluid substance communicated in the clearance, thereby delivering the fluid without the needle being necessarily hollow, wherein the cannula/needle combination is assembled prior to use.

11. (Previously Presented) The cannula/needle combination of claim 10, wherein the needle has no opening.

12. (Previously Presented) The cannula/needle combination of claim 10, wherein the cannula/needle combination is in fluid communication with a catheter.

13. (Previously Presented) The cannula/needle combination of claim 10, wherein said communication of said fluid substance in the clearance comprises priming.

14. (Previously Presented) The cannula/needle combination of claim 10, wherein the clearance extends substantially along the length of the needle.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A method for administering a fluid substance comprising:

inserting a pre-assembled cannula/needle combination by piercing the skin with the needle in the cannula/needle combination, wherein the pre-assembled cannula/needle comprises:

a needle comprising a substantially sharpened piercing end; and

a cannula surrounding the needle in a snug fit between an inner wall of the cannula and an outer wall of the needle; wherein

a clearance is configured between the inner wall of the cannula and the outer wall of the needle, the fluid substance communicated in the clearance, thereby delivering the fluid without the needle being necessarily hollow.

17. (Previously Presented) A system for providing a cannula/needle combination for a catheter head for administering a fluid substance, comprising:

piercing means for piercing the skin, wherein the piercing means comprises at least a substantially sharpened piercing end;

fluid delivery means for administering a fluid substance, wherein the fluid delivery means at least surrounds said piercing means and forms a snug fit between an inner wall of the fluid delivery means and an outer wall of the piercing means; wherein the piercing means and fluid delivery means are pre-assembled before piercing the skin, and wherein a clearance is configured between the inner wall of the fluid delivery means and the outer wall of the piercing means, the fluid substance communicated in the clearance, thereby delivering the fluid without the piercing means being necessarily hollow.